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up of extravagant ideals lacking in solid representative elements. Hence a gap opens between his ideal and the actual. He can never realize the ideal he pursues and so his feelings take on a somber hue. From this excessive idealism results a mania of doubt (Amiel), a certain distrust of all his rational objective knowledge. It assumes another form in extreme subjectivism. The pessimist is haunted by images of tiniest religious scruples, suspicions, fears and anxieties, resulting in alienation from friends, seclusion misanthropy.

The pessimist is further characterized by an incapacity for prolonged attention, a refractory attention and a feeble will. These result in inaction, quietism, reverie, self-objecination, abolition of the personality, annihilation of the will, mounting sometime even to poetic or religious ecstasy.

More than Magalhaes is Dr. Huyghe concerned with the pathologic basis of pessimism. He connects it with arithritism, a constitutional disturbance of nutrition and circulation, resulting in local congestions of vitiated blood. These may result in gout, rheumatism, kidney or brain diseases. Is there any psychic aspect to these maladies? The ancients associated hypochondria or melancholia with all of them. Pessimism would seem to be the mental side of arithritism.

These essays do not ignore the existence of an impersonal, intellectual, objective pessimism, having a basis very different from that of the personal, sentimental subjective pessimism. Connecting the latter with neurosthenia or arithritism leaves the philosophic question just where it was.

E. A. ROSS.

Univ. of Indiana.

GRÉHANT, *Sur un nouvel appareil destiné à mesurer la puissance musculaire*, Comptes rend. 1891, CXIII. 212.

M. Gréhan describes his dynamometric myograph (a modification of Prof. Marey's spring myograph) for registering and estimating muscular effort. A steel spring,  $400^{\text{mm}} \times 18^{\text{mm}} \times 2^{\text{mm}}$ , is fastened at one end firmly to a table, and to the other is attached an adjustable self-feeding pen, which traces, upon a revolving paper cylinder, a line of abscissa and a curve. A cord, having a wooden handle at one end, is attached to the spring at the other end. The person sits before the instrument, with his arm supported in such a position that the elbow forms a right angle, and the hand grasps the handle. By a violent jerk the forearm is bent upon the arm, and the style traces a denticulated curve. Now to measure the muscular power, it is only necessary to pass the cord over a pulley, and attach weights, until the pen traces a tangent to the summit of the curve. In several experiments M. Gréhan found the muscular power of the biceps and of the brachial anterior to be from 15 to  $45^{\text{kg}}$ . He adds that multiplied experiments would, doubtless, yield a wider range of results.

F. TRACY.

In connection with the department of anthropology, of which Prof. F. W. Putnam is the chief, a section of psychology has been established at the World's Fair. The object of this section is to exhibit, in a typical rather than exhaustive way, the methods and results of modern psychology. The exhibit falls into two parts; the one a working laboratory for making tests of the sense powers, movements and simple mental processes, and the other an exhibit of apparatus, facilities, and results of research; the exhibits are to be labelled and made as serviceable, from a pedagogical point of view, as possible. In the working laboratory it is proposed to make tests upon visitors and to publish a statistical study of the material thus collected. In order to render

these tests as expeditious and serviceable as possible, many records are desired before the opening of the Fair, and the co-operation of all experimental psychologists is earnestly invited in the gathering of such tests. These preliminary results will furnish a norm or standard by which individuals may be classified. The final plans are not yet matured, but the interest and co-operation of all psychologists is desired. Communications should be addressed to Prof. Joseph Jastrow, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis., in whose charge the section of psychology has been placed.

WELLS, *Clinical report of three cases of insanity of childhood*, Journal of Nerv. and Ment. Diseases, 1891, N. S. XVI. 292.

The cases of two girls (aged 15 and 11 respectively) and of one boy (aged 14) are carefully detailed. He regards the contemporaneous physical disturbances in these cases (e. g., chorea in that of the elder girl) "more as a consequence of the mental disturbance than as the causative factor of the perverted ideas." The majority of cases of child insanity fall rather under the class of idiocy or imbecility, which some maniacal excitement can accompany. In intellectual deficiency, then, Dr. W. finds the cause of most insanity in children; into the cause of the imbecility, he very properly does not go in this report.

University of Texas.

WALTER LEFEVRE.